

Sketch of a West Pointer: Don Clancy

Don was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and attended school in that historical city. Following graduation, he articulated in Vancouver and then moved to Dawson Creek, in order to make a little money. He intended to stay for two years but liked it so much that it was 22 years later that he moved to Victoria, where he worked for the Attorney General, primarily doing litigation. Don's talents were recognized and he was appointed as a Judge to the Supreme Court of BC, in Vancouver. After retirement, he spent four years on the BC Review Board, working part-time. The Board reviews cases where an accused has been found unfit to stand trial or acquitted by reason of mental disorder.

While living in Halifax, Don took up the wonderful game of golf at age 22. In Dawson Creek, he managed to get his handicap down to 16. When asked if he had ever shot his age, Don replied, "You've got to be kidding! It may happen later, but my best guess is on my 105th birthday!" He's a member of the hole-in-one club, but with his sense of humour intact, resents any suggestion that luck was involved. Like a lot of members who have enjoyed this accomplishment, Don didn't actually see the ball go into the hole. From the tee box, he watched his drive go 5 or 10 feet beyond the hole and then turned away. His playing partners started yelling and cheering as the ball rolled back into the cup on the 7th hole at McCleery.

Our members sometimes complain about the condition of the greens we play on but, like a number of our members, Don played for several years on oiled sand greens in Dawson Creek. His golf group thought nothing of it as they travelled to Grande Prairie, Peace River, Fort St. John and Spirit River – and they all had sand greens. Don fondly remembers his best round, scoring in the 70s, while playing at Spirit River.

Don and his wife have two children and four grandchildren. They love to travel and have seen much of the world. One memorable trip took them to the Middle East, where they toured Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan. Winter vacations are often spent in Hawaii or Palm Desert.

A memorable golf game was played on the Old Course at St. Andrews, Scotland. He played reasonably well, shooting a 96 that day, and his playing partners invited him back to their club house in the New Course, that was founded in 1896. They fitted him out with a tie and jacket so they could eat and drink beer for several hours. Don recalls that they almost persuaded him to apply for a non-resident membership! Suffice to say, he took a taxi back to Dundee. Don has played at courses where qualifying games for the British Open are played and a course in Portugal where the European Open was held. These courses were generally not in very good condition. Another memorable trip was to Alabama to play the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail – they are all great courses in a very interesting area. Other than our local courses, Don's favourites are Jasper Park, Indian Canyon in Palm Springs and Cordova Bay in Victoria. When asked for golfers he most admired, his response was Arnold Palmer, Greg Norman and Tom Watson.

Don is always willing to assist the membership of West Point and served as the coordinator for the McIntyre competition for several years. He became a member in 2004 and this year qualified for the Super Senior Competition. He's won the Parker Shield and Ed Angel competitions, as well as the handicap flight in stroke play.